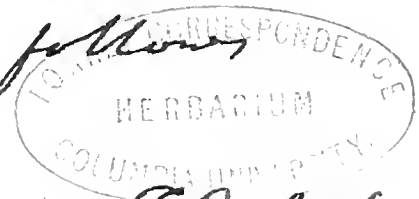


Dr John Torrey  
Dear Sir



On the other page is a letter to Hooker which you may tear off & dispatch with your parcel of cryptogamies & your own letter. I leave it to yourself to suggest your wants to him, & I doubt not he will answer to your hearty content. Smith says he is dragged to death with correspondents. DeCandolle is hungry as a shark & writes letters by the quine. If your packet has not miscarried I cannot conceive why he has not answered. Just inform him that you will send no more plants till he answers, & you will hear from him fast enough. Hooker is young & given to mopes & will pay a fair price in kind for them. Direct your packet this time as follows



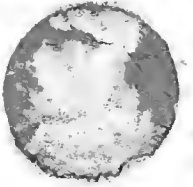
Francis Booth Esq  
for Wm Jackson Hooker Esq F.R.S. &c.  
care of Messrs T. & J. D. Thorneley  
Merchants Liverpool

Booth is in England & will forward your parcel to Hooker wherever he lies. Booth is married in England & will probably return no more to this country. He knows all the botanists in England & France & will give you any information if you write to him, or my authority.

Yours truly W. B. Bigelow

152  
Dear John Torrey  
New York

Watch Biquetes  
Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 1820  
Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 1820



Boston June 10 1829

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My dear sir

I got your letter the day after I had sent you a despatch by Dr Rogers. I included no grapes, as from his account I suppose they would be too late. I will however send you a quantity in the course of 2 or 3 days after this.

I inclose the White hill Scirpus which I called obtusus. Having compared it lately with European specimens, I think it is a variety of *S. cespitosus* (new in the Am. flora) If it differs it is in the greater callosity of the ends of the glumes a character which I do not find in any European botanist; nor yet in Tuckermans' fig. although I do find it in a Swiss specimen. I propose to call it *Scirpus cespitosus*, var. *callosus*. unless you have good European specimens to settle difficulty.

*S. bracteatus* was an unripe sp. of which I am so doubtful that I shall drop it, & advise you to do the same.

Let me know at what periods dates your numbers will appear, also how far each will

extend. i.e. to what class. I will send  
you cheerfully whatever I have that is new  
before the publication of my 2<sup>d</sup> edit. for which  
if you please you may quote my *M. S. Thora*  
*Bostonensis*. I shall not publish till the  
end of fall. -

You may perhaps find some interesting  
grapes in the packet I shall send you  
on the heels of this

Yours very truly

Wigelow

Boston June 17 1823



Dear sir

By sloop Orion, a regular packet, I send you a packet of plants a large portion of which are grasses. You will do well to inquire at the vessel when you see her arrival in the papers, as Capt Godfrey does not know where to find you. As I have been much engaged since I last wrote, the specimens are put up in great haste & will probably prove in many instances duplicates as I have selected them at odd jobs & have not looked at them a second time. A large portion of them are without names, being specimens which I had laid aside for future investigation, or sent to me by correspondents in the N. E. States, & which I have thought better to send & let you judge for yourself, than to keep them till it is too late for your book. — I think I formerly sent you the plant I called *Floer's monticola* from the White Mts. It was not then described in any book received here, but I since find it is exactly *F. alpinus* of Wahlenberg. Fl. Scpp. — In the packet you will find *Eriophorum alpinum* from the White hills.

My *Scirpus obtusus* I enclosed you in a letter with my opinion that it is a variety of *Sc. cespitosus*.

Inclosed with the packet you will find a small bottle containing fresh specimens of *Poa maritima*, *Poa geniculata*, (miki), *Arenaria peploides*, *Potentilla anserina*, *Anethum bulbosa*. —

I should like your opinion of all the specimens to which I have affixed numbers, except where the specimens are bad, in which case I will not tax you.

I have 3 species of *Rubus* which to me are new & to which I request your attention. The first I sent you by Dr Rogers, the 2 last are in the packet.

*R. setosus*. Canle erecto-reclinato, setoso-aculeolato foliis ternatis quinatis, utrinque glabris, calycibus tomentosis —

In a swamp at Sudbury 20 miles from Boston. Fruit red, ripens very late. Prickles soft, bristle like.

*R. sempervirens*. Canle prostrato, aculeolato; foliis ternatis nitidis, sempervirentibus; racemis paniciformis. In swamps. — fruit black, sour smell — Pursh seems to have confounded it with his *obovatus* which is hispid & subherbaceous. This is prickly, woody & evergreen.

*R. frondosus* resembles *R. villosus* but differs

as follows

*R. villosus*

Racemes naked, 20 flowered  
the lower flowers opening  
first

Petals lance-ovate with  
wide interstices when expanded

Pubescence glandular

Flowers smaller

*R. frondosus*

Racemes leafy, 10 flowered  
the upper ones opening first

Petals orbicular-ovate,  
touching

Pubescence simple

Flowers larger

Can it be a variety?

Let me hear from you after  
you have got my parcel

Yours ever

W. Bigelow



*[Signature]*

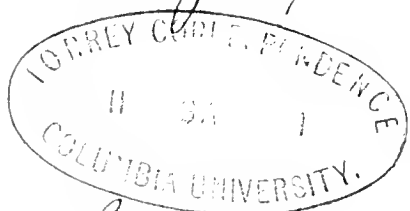
PAID

Doctor John Torrey —

New York —

Acad. Bigelow  
June 17<sup>th</sup> 1823  
Recd. June 19<sup>th</sup>

Boston May 17 1824



My dear sir

By the proofs I am beginning to send you you will see that my little work is half printed. My species you perceive are not numerous, & most of them belonging to the vicinity of this city. I shall give the rest without waiting to correct them.

Your letter of Apr 5. I read with much pleasure. You ask what is the plant called Menziesii? in my old list of White hill plants. It was Andromeda lychnoides, not then seen in flower. Racine uliginosa I had adopted in deference to Smith & Hooker. Vitis Idaea also on more examination. I have at several periods received late plants from the White hills but not many things omitted in my catalogue. Messrs Greene & Little brought home last summer from the upper region Xylostemon villum, - Juncus filiformis, - Solidago Canadensis, - Androsace virga aurea var. - Prunella which after examining many specimens of different sizes I considered P. alba. - Betula nana. - Solidago macrophylla Pursh. near the top. I do not recollect any thing else which you have not got. Stellaria borealis has ovate-lanceolate leaves & cloven petals, while Spergularium lanceolatum Mx. has "petala ovalia" & is therefore an Arenaria.

I thank you much for your 2<sup>d</sup> No & am anxious to see the 3<sup>d</sup>. Pray forward it by mail & tell your publisher to charge it to Cummings & Hilliard of this city. Since I last wrote John C. Gray Esq & Cyrus Kilbourn have subscribed for it. I hope you will

go on & give us your proposed "Flora of North America". Probably no person among us is so well qualified by the union of perseverance & advantages, & it is time that the task was undertaken by a native botanist. A work of this kind well digested in its synonyms, freed from superfluous & non-existent species, & as far as possible retaining the older names of plants, would be of inestimable value. On this last subject I cannot keep pace with the continental botanists of Europe. (I say continental for Smith & Hooker seem not to follow them) in forming new genera whenever the old ones are found susceptible of division. The constant ~~fracture~~ fracture in botanical nomenclature, & consequent load of synonyms with which books must be incumbered, is at the present day the greatest stumbling block in the way of students of our science. What it will be half a century hence, God only knows. The same principles which have divided *Convallaria* & *Pyrola*, must hereafter divide *Syrinchia* & *Ribes*, & a vast number of other genera which are now received as entire. It is probable the present acknowledged genera might be at once increased to twice the number on very defensible grounds. Take for example *Ranunculus* of which some species have scales for nectaries & some have tubes; — some have spherical heads & some cylindrical; — some are uncinati, & some mucronati, & some neither. — Rafinesque might form, & Schultes adopt, half a dozen genera from this alone. Now if any congress of Laybach or Holy

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alliance could settle this business definitively & forever. it would be a happy circumstance for botany, & we should all submit whatever names they might adopt. But as this cannot be, we must take our chance; not with three legislatures, but with three hundred; & congratulate ourselves that amidst the Babel of shifting nomenclature, we have still the Linnaean names as landmarks to see our way by.

But enough of this trade about names. —

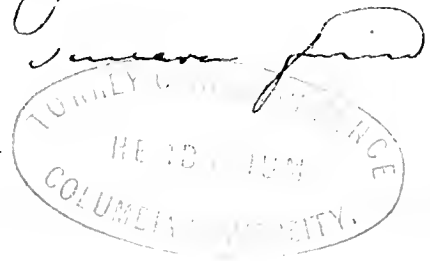
The plant which passes here for Pisum maritimum is a true Lathyrus & must be different from the European plant. I have called it L. maritimus, as you will see. — I am puzzled about a little plant growing upon our hills which passes for Cardamine Virg. but does not agree with the descr. being not auriculate. You will see on my proof sheets a Eupatorium ovatum, Erigeron integrifolius, an Orchis grandiflora (a great beauty) Neottia gracilis &c. I will endeavor that you shall have these reasonably. Let me know exactly how fast you proceed & when you finish.

Present my respects to Dr. Mead Sec. Am. Soc. & express to him my great regret at not being able to accept his flattering invitation to attend the anniversary festival of the society at Long Island.

With much esteem your sincere friend

Do my proofs reach you?

Jacobs Bigelow



Dr John Torrey  
New York

Recd May 21/57.  
May 17th, 1824  
Jacob Bigelow